

For Immediate Release: August 15, 2008

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-STATEMENT -

BYSIEWICZ RESPONDS TO CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORTS IN BRIDGEPORT

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today issued the following statement in response to calls for her office to "launch a full investigation" into the activities of the advocacy group ACORN's efforts to register voters in Bridgeport.

"Voter fraud is an allegation that my office takes very seriously. The only state agency that can investigate potential voter fraud, however, is the State Elections Enforcement Commission. In fact, the Office of the Secretary of the State has consistently instructed local Registrars of Voters that if they see any voter registration cards that raise red flags or do not look correct, they should make photocopies for their own records and send the problematic cards to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for investigation. If anyone feels there is enough evidence to warrant an investigation, I would urge them to file a Complaint with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. ACORN has informed our office that there were indeed problems with voter registration cards being filled out improperly or incorrectly in Bridgeport and in fact those cards were not counted. This case proves the system works. Locally elected Registrars of Voters are trained statewide to detect discrepancies or inconsistencies in information provided on voter registration cards."